

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were in the application. Claims 1-19 are hereby cancelled without prejudice and new claims 20-24 are presented for examination. No new matter is believed added by this amendment. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks Examiner Rhode and Primary Examiner Smith for the courtesy of the interview conducted on December 20, 2004. Participants in the interview included Examiners Rhode and Smith and the undersigned. Claim 1 was discussed in view of the Tanner reference. Examiner Rhode also mentioned the Tamir reference (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0063735A1). No agreement was reached.

In the Office Action mailed September 10, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0180786 A1 ("Tanner"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed in the interview, the Tanner reference fails to teach or suggest embodiments as claimed in claims 1-19 at least because Tanner fails to teach or suggest a computer which automatically reconfigures a browser to adjust preference information based on a user's network usage characteristics. To further emphasize this and other distinctions over the Tanner reference, Applicant herewith presents new claims 20-24.

New claim 20 recites a computing device operable by a user to interact with network sites over a network interface. The device includes a storage device that stores user interface software (such as a Web browser), characteristic information (data measured based on the user's interaction with network sites), and preference information including a ranking of preferred network sites. The preference information configures the user interface software. In operation, the computing device repeatedly detects network activity as the user visits network sites, repeatedly updates the characteristic information, and repeatedly updates the preference

information so that the user preferences configuring the user interface software reflect usage patterns of the user.

The system described by Tanner fails to teach or suggest such a device. As discussed in the interview, Tanner describes two embodiments. A first embodiment (e.g., at paragraphs [0016]-[0018]) describes a system that edits Web page content based on a user's configuration settings (e.g., a network home page may be reconfigured to remove unused sections). A second embodiment (e.g., at paragraphs [0021]-[0022]) describes a system where the user is notified of updates to Web sites the user frequently visits. For example, an icon may appear on the bottom of a browser window to indicate that a favorite sports page has been updated. Nowhere in Tanner is there any teaching or suggestion to provide a computing device that stores characteristic information (e.g., data measured based on the user's interaction with network sites) and preference information including a ranking of preferred ones of said plurality of network sites as measured by said characteristic information for automatically configuring user preferences of said user interface. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion of repeatedly detecting and updating as said user operates said computing device such that said user preferences of said user interface automatically reflect usage patterns of said user. At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully suggests that claim 20 is patentable over the Tanner reference. Further, there is simply no teaching or suggestion in Tanner to modify Tanner to provide such features.

Dependent claims 21-23 are patentable at least as depending from claim 20.

Claim 24 is patentable for similar reasons.

During the interview, the Examiner referred to the Tamir reference as also being of interest. Applicant reminds the Examiner that the Tamir reference was previously cited by the Office (see the Office Action mailed on March 24, 2004. Applicant previously traversed the rejection. Tamir fails to teach or suggest embodiments of the present invention (as recited in now cancelled claims 1-19 and new claims 20-24) at least because Tamir fails to teach or suggest systems or methods that utilize a user device that performs steps of detecting, measuring, and

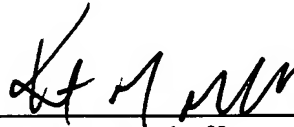
reconfiguring. Applicant's previous arguments and discussion of Tamir are incorporated and reiterated in this response by reference. The claims as presented are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0081.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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